

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE

A5

NEW YORK TIMES
27 May 1985

FILE ONLY

2 Frenchmen Seized in Beirut

Special to The New York Times

BEIRUT, Lebanon, May 26 — The Lebanese police said today that two Frenchmen were kidnapped by unidentified gunmen in the Shiite Moslem suburbs south of Beirut on Wednesday.

The police said the French Embassy had asked them not to report the kidnappings at the time because French diplomats were pursuing contacts with militia officials.

The two Frenchmen, Michel Sura and Jean-Paul Kauffman, were abducted at gunpoint on the road from Beirut International Airport shortly after arriving from Paris, the police said.

Mr. Sura works for the French National Center for Scientific Research, and Mr. Kauffman has been on assignment for a French magazine, *L'Événement du Jeudi*. Both have lived in Beirut for several years.

There has been no comment from the French Embassy on the kidnappings.

Two French diplomats in Lebanon, Marcel Fontaine, a vice consul, and Marcel Carton, the embassy's chief of

protocol, were kidnapped in West Beirut earlier this year.

The shadowy terrorist group known as Islamic Holy War said it was holding them as well as four Americans who have been kidnapped since March 1984. They are William Buckley, a diplomat; the Rev. Benjamin Weir, a Presbyterian minister; the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, a Roman Catholic priest, and Terry A. Anderson, the chief Middle East correspondent of The Associated Press.

On May 15, the group issued photographs of the six captives to the press here and offered to set them free if Kuwait released 17 prisoners convicted in connection with the bombings of the French and United States embassies and other installations in Kuwait in December 1983.

'Terrible Consequences'

Islamic Holy War said that if the 17 were not freed, there would be "terrible consequences."

On Saturday, a foreign news agency here was told by a telephone caller that Islamic Holy War was behind the attempt to kill the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah.

The Emir escaped with cuts and bruises when a suicide driver rammed a bomb-laden car into his motorcade.

The caller issued another warning about the inmates in Kuwait, saying that "all the thrones in the Gulf will be targeted" if the prisoners are not freed.